

# 2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Funded Communities: Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg/Gardner, Haverhill/Methuen, Holyoke/Chicopee, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Metro Mayors Coalition (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop), New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton/Attleboro, Worcester

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. In 2021, Shannon CSI awarded \$9.7 million to 15 Massachusetts community sites greatly impacted by gang activity. Funding supported positive youth development, recreation, case management, street outreach, education employment, targeted suppression, and community mobilization programs. Additionally, Shannon CSI funded the equivalent of approximately 140 full-time positions to strategically address youth gang violence within these communities.

## Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation\*

Total Funding: \$9,749,716.63  
Including \$345,035.06 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<u>2,934</u> Received Case Management Services	<u>1,252</u> Received Street Outreach Services	<b>\$2,270,583.51</b>
<b>Community Mobilization</b>	<u>26,304</u> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<u>993</u> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	<b>\$553,494.70</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<u>2,090</u> Participated in Employment Programs	<u>3,138</u> Participated in Education Programs	<b>\$1,754,142.59</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<u>8,599</u> Participated in Recreation Programs	<u>8,402</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<b>\$2,759,650.29</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<u>5,414</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<u>724</u> Successful Home Visits (i.e., contact with youth or family)	<b>\$1,685,544.70</b>

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations. Statewide, \$726,300.83 was allocated to administrative costs.

## Youth Risk Assessments

47% **LOW-RISK\*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

37% **MODERATE-RISK\*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

16% **HIGH-RISK\*** Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Success Highlight

"Participant N was 17, involved in a gang that she felt she could not leave, and experiencing homelessness. She had recently been a victim of street violence and expressed wanting to work with an outreach worker to get back on track and access shelter. Her case manager immediately connected her to a mental health clinician and established a safety plan with her while also providing basic needs supports. Participant N followed her safety goals, has left the crew/gang and located safe housing. She stated: 'I never felt like anyone cared about what would happen to me before' and 'You guys just showed up when I needed some help'"

~Safe Corners (Old Colony YMCA)

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Terrence Reidy, Secretary

To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

# Shannon Community Risk Factors 2021\*

	Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	Population Lives in Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Total School Population (2020-21)	Economically Disadvantaged	High School Dropout Rate
Massachusetts	6,984,723	9.4%	5.6%	970,443	43.8%	1.6%
Boston	675,647	18.9%	5.7%	70,213	71.2%	3.9%
Brockton	105,643	14.8%	8.6%	18,645	76.4%	2.8%
Fall River	94,000	19.7%	8.9%	14,513	81.7%	3.9%
Fitchburg	41,946	15.7%	8.1%	6,552	75.2%	3.7%
Gardner	21,287	13.9%	7.1%	2,801	66.9%	3.6%
Haverhill	67,787	12.5%	6.4%	9,691	62.7%	2.2%
Methuen	53,059	9.2%	7%	7,869	53.6%	1.3%
Holyoke	38,238	29.3%	8.6%	5,571	86.5%	3.4%
Chicopee	55,560	13.8%	7.3%	7,721	69%	2.1%
Lawrence	89,143	21.4%	12%	16,678	88.8%	4.6%
Lowell	115,554	19%	6.9%	19,019	75%	3.3%
Lynn	101,253	16.6%	7.8%	17,880	76.3%	3.8%
Cambridge	118,403	12.7%	3.4%	8,026	38.3%	1%
Chelsea	40,787	18.1%	6.8%	7,227	83.1%	3.5%
Everett	49,075	12.6%	5.8%	7,564	74.4%	4%
Malden	66,263	15.5%	6.1%	7,240	65.2%	3.4%
Quincy	101,636	11.3%	5.9%	9,716	50.2%	0.8%
Revere	62,186	12.7%	7%	8,336	70.7%	2.7%
Somerville	81,045	11.5%	4%	5,254	53.4%	2%
Winthrop	19,316	8.8%	5.4%	1,816	40%	1.1%
New Bedford	101,079	20.3%	8.5%	16,679	82.5%	3.2%
Pittsfield	43,927	13.4%	7.6%	5,976	67.5%	2.5%
Springfield	155,929	26.9%	10.3%	29,042	87.4%	3%
Taunton	59,408	14.2%	6.7%	8,075	60.2%	1.4%
Attleborough	46,461	8.6%	5.3%	6,562	42.5%	1.3%
Worcester	206,518	20%	6.9%	27,491	74.3%	1.7%

\* Shading in chart groups communities by the 15 Shannon sites.

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

## Gang Activity in Massachusetts

424+  
Street Gangs

Data on gang members under the age of 25 was not available from all police departments. For police departments that had available data, 2,319 gang members under the age of 25 were identified.

7,237+  
Active Gang  
Members

Across the state, gangs/crews were primarily involved in drug trafficking, associated violence, carrying weapons, and property damage. Notably, social media was used to flash gang/crew membership and recruit new, younger members. Many at-risk youths were targeted to carry out gang/crew operations because of their advantageous juvenile status.

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, Northeastern University and the Crime and Justice Policy Lab of the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.

# Putting Shannon Dollars to Work to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence

## \$9.7 Million Investment

141 Partners  
at 15 Sites



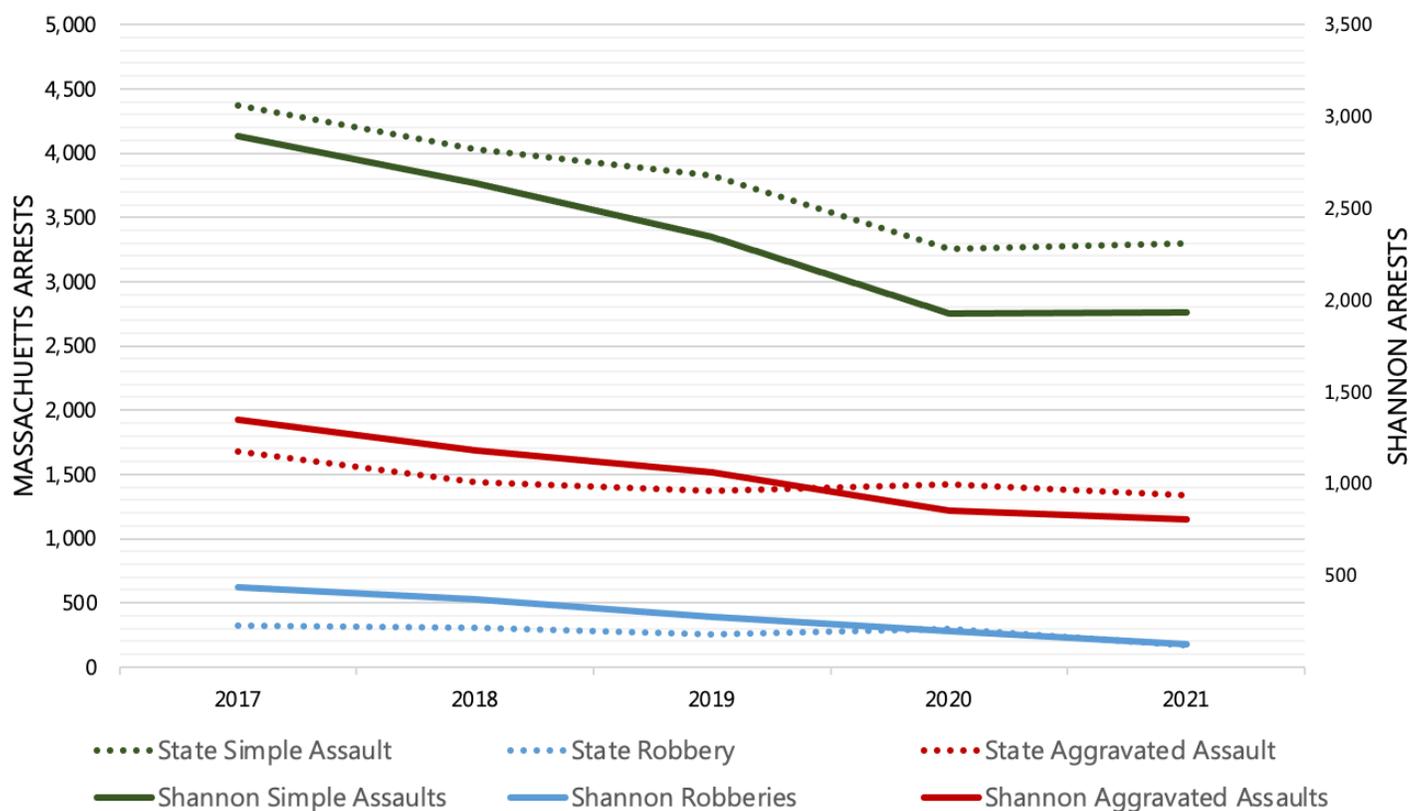
15,443 total youth served,  
averaging \$584.30 invested per youth  
across all services

\$147.03 invested per youth in  
Case Management & Street  
Outreach, or Intervention Efforts



\$113.59 invested per youth in  
Education or Employment Efforts

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021

#### Simple assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 25%
- Shannon communities decreased 33%

#### Robberies in...

- Massachusetts decreased 47%
- Shannon communities decreased 72%

#### Aggravated assaults in...

- Massachusetts decreased 20%
- Shannon communities decreased 40%

# Overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) is a multi-sector data-driven approach, modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. After completing a community needs assessment, Shannon funded communities, in collaboration with steering committees, develop strategies in the following five areas:

## Positive Youth Development & Recreation\*



Positive Youth Development and Recreation Programs provide a prosocial outlet for youth to expand and enhance their interests, skills and abilities. These programs are safe havens for recreational, enrichment, educational and prevention activities outside school hours (i.e., athletics and physical fitness, school achievement initiatives).

## Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention



Case Management Street Outreach or Intervention programs for gang involved and proven risk youth reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.

## Education & Employment



Education and Employment Programs provide education, training, and employment opportunities to youth at high-risk for youth violence and gang involvement.

## Suppression



Suppression programs include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law-enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.

## Community Mobilization



Community Mobilization Programs educate community members about local gang and youth violence trends, as well as involving community members in strategies to confront the problem.

Two additional funded components of Shannon CSI include the Local Action Research Partners (LARPs), and the Statewide Youth Violence Research Partner (SRP). LARPs assist funded sites by providing strategic, analytic, technical, and research support. The SRP assists all funded Shannon CSI communities, LARPs and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security by providing strategic, analytic, and research support. Together the LARPs and SRP inform funded communities about best practices to maximize the effectiveness of the Shannon CSI.